Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A reclining device, comprising:

a plurality of pawls, each of which has first teeth formed in a first end portion thereof, first and second leg portions extending in a direction opposite to the first teeth and formed in a second end portion on the other side of the first end portion where the first teeth are formed and a low-rigidity portion formed in ~~at least one~~each of the first and second leg portions and demonstrating a lower rigidity than the other portions of the first and second leg portions;

a ratchet which has second teeth that mesh with the first teeth and which can turn within a range where the second teeth are formed so that the first and second teeth can mesh with each other locally and variably;

a holder which has a guide groove that abuts on and holds a lateral face of each of the pawls so that the pawls slidably move toward and away from the second teeth of the ratchet; and

a cam body which bears on at least one of the first and second leg portions of each of the pawls and presses the first teeth of the pawl toward the ratchet so that the first teeth of the pawl are brought into mesh with the second teeth of the ratchet in order to prevent the holder and the ratchet from rotating relative to each other and which brings the first teeth of the pawl out of mesh with the second teeth of the ratchet so that the holder and the ratchet are allowed to rotate relative to each other.

2. (Original) The reclining device according to claim 1, wherein the low-rigidity portion is formed in at least one of the first and second leg portions in a region with a reduced cross-sectional area.

3. (Original) The reclining device according to claim 2, wherein the low-rigidity portion is a recess formed in the leg portion in a face opposed to the direction in which the ratchet can turn.

4. (Original) The reclining device according to claim 2, wherein the low-rigidity portion has a hole formed inside a lateral wall of the leg portion and extending perpendicularly to the direction in which the ratchet can turn.

5. (Original) The reclining device according to claim 1, wherein the low-rigidity portion is made from a material demonstrating a lower rigidity than a material from which the other portions of each of the pawls are made.

6. (Currently Amended) The reclining device according to claim 1, wherein the low-rigidity portion is formed at ~~the~~ a root of each of the leg portions of each of the pawls.

7. (Original) The reclining device according to claim 1, wherein if a stress is applied to the pawls via the ratchet in the direction in which the ratchet can turn when the pawls are in mesh with the ratchet such that the low-rigidity portion on the side of the stress buckles, each of the pawls are deflected upon the low-rigidity portion on the side of a turning direction such that the first teeth turn toward the ratchet.

8. (Original) The reclining device according to claim 7, wherein part of the deflected pawl sinks into a lateral face of the guide groove that is on the side of a direction in which the pawl moves and that abuts on the pawl.

9. (Original) The reclining device according to claim 7, wherein part of the first teeth remain meshed with part of the second teeth after the pawls are deflected.

10. (Currently Amended) The reclining device according to claim 7, wherein when the pawls are deflected upon ~~the recess formed in the leg portion~~the low-rigidity portion, the first teeth keep meshing with the ratchet.

11. (New) The reclining device according to claim 10, wherein the low-rigidity portion is a recess.

12. (New) A reclining device, comprising:

a plurality of pawls, each of which has first teeth formed in a first end portion thereof, first and second leg portions extending in a direction opposite to the first teeth and formed in a second end portion on the other side of the first end portion where the first teeth are formed and a low-rigidity portion formed in at least one of the first and second leg portions and demonstrating a lower rigidity than the other portions of the first and second leg portions;

a ratchet which has second teeth that mesh with the first teeth and which can turn within a range where the second teeth are formed so that the first and second teeth can mesh with each other locally and variably;

a holder which has a guide groove that abuts on and holds a lateral face of each of the pawls so that the pawls slidably move toward and away from the second teeth of the ratchet, wherein the low-rigidity portion is formed to face a lateral wall of the guide groove of the holder; and

a cam body which bears on at least one of the first and second leg portions of each of the pawls and presses the first teeth of the pawl toward the ratchet so that the first teeth of the pawl are brought into mesh with the second teeth of the ratchet in order to prevent the holder and the ratchet from rotating relative to each other and which brings the first teeth of the pawl out of mesh with the second teeth of the ratchet so that the holder and the ratchet are allowed to rotate relative to each other.

13. (New) The reclining device according to claim 12, wherein the low-rigidity portion is formed in at least one of the first and second leg portions in a region with a reduced cross-sectional area.

14. (New) The reclining device according to claim 13, wherein the low-rigidity portion is a recess formed in the leg portion in a face opposed to the direction in which the ratchet can turn.

15. (New) The reclining device according to claim 13, wherein the low-rigidity portion has a hole formed inside a lateral wall of the leg portion and extending perpendicularly to the direction in which the ratchet can turn.

16. (New) The reclining device according to claim 12, wherein the low-rigidity portion is made from a material demonstrating a lower rigidity than a material from which the other portions of each of the pawls are made.

17. (New) The reclining device according to claim 12, wherein the low-rigidity portion is formed at a root of each of the leg portions of each of the pawls.

18. (New) The reclining device according to claim 12, wherein if a stress is applied to the pawls via the ratchet in the direction in which the ratchet can turn when the pawls are in mesh with the ratchet such that the low-rigidity portion on the side of the stress buckles, each of the pawls are deflected upon the low-rigidity portion on the side of a turning direction such that the first teeth turn toward the ratchet.

19. (New) The reclining device according to claim 18, wherein part of the deflected pawl sinks into a lateral face of the guide groove that is on the side of a direction in which the pawl moves and that abuts on the pawl.

20. (New) The reclining device according to claim 18, wherein part of the first teeth remain meshed with part of the second teeth after the pawls are deflected.

21. (New) The reclining device according to claim 18, wherein when the pawls are deflected upon the low-rigidity portion, the first teeth keep meshing with the ratchet.

22. (New) The reclining device according to claim 21, wherein the low-rigidity portion is a recess.